



HUMANITY KEEPS AN APPOINTMENT



PRICE 1/-

It must be realised that as the year advances both facts and figures will change with the altering circumstances of war. One thing is certain: the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John has the resources, the equipment, the personnel and the enthusiasm to meet the sternest demands that the future may make.

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HUMANITY KEEPS AN APPOINTMENT

*The story of the
War Organisation
of the
British Red Cross Society
and
Order of St. John
of Jerusalem*



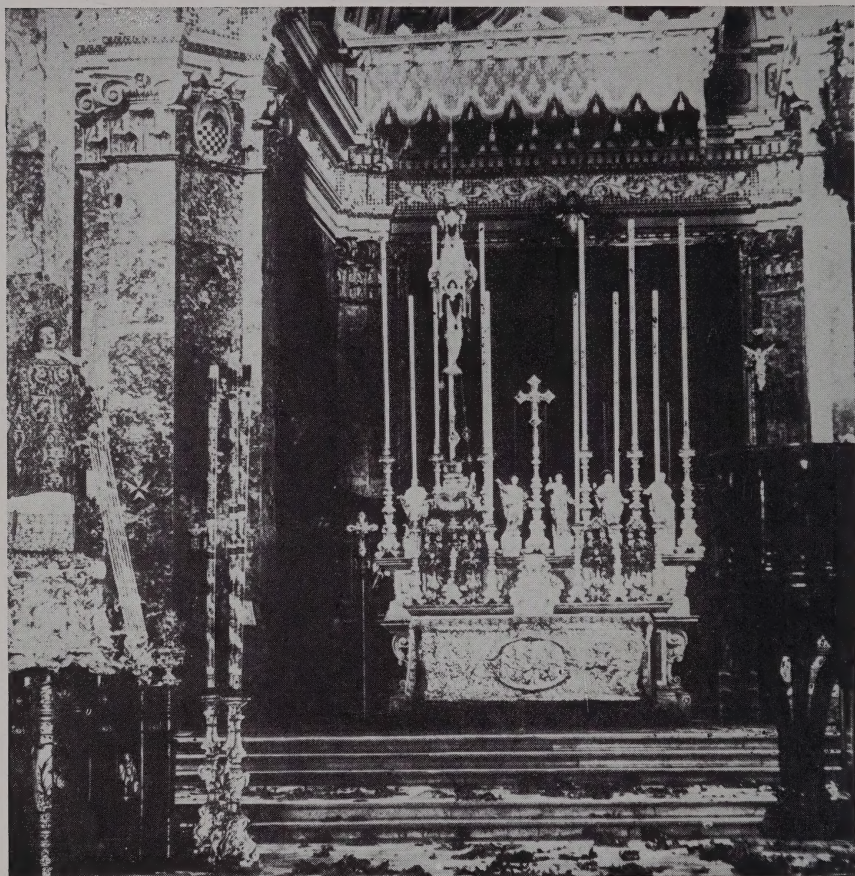
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Man's inhumanity to man is only exceeded by his compassion. In the heat and smoke of battle men risk their lives to aid the wounded of both sides. Every discovery of modern science is pressed into service to ease their sufferings and to restore



them to health. Side by side with the medical and relief services of the state, the War Organisation of the British Red Cross and St. John works to relieve the agonies of war. Humanity keeps its age-old appointment to alleviate human pain and sorrow



THE ORIGINAL CHURCH of the Knights of St. John at Malta. The island was given to the Knights in 1530 and there they nursed the sick, wounded and infirm for nearly three hundred years.

LARGE-SCALE voluntary help for the sick and wounded is only possible in a society in which humane and compassionate emotions are widely diffused. And so we must look for the origin of this vast movement in the slow development of humanitarian feeling, at first among groups of men and women, and later in society as a whole.

When the first Crusaders marched into Jerusalem in 1099 they found a Christian hospital run by a group of monks who nursed all sick, wounded and needy

persons irrespective of race or creed. Later, this group became the religious Order of the Knights of St. John, or Hospitallers.

The new Order, with its eight-pointed white cross as symbol, was driven by the turbulence of the times to Cyprus, to Rhodes, and finally to Malta. Everywhere the knights built great hospitals and nursed the sick and wounded of all nations. In 1827 the British branch of the Order of St. John was revived and to-day its eight-pointed emblem is linked with the

FOR THE SICK AND WOUNDED BEGAN



AFTER THE BATTLE OF DETTINGEN, 1743, both combatants honoured a previously signed agreement and treated the wounded with care and humanity, irrespective of nationality.

Red Cross in the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John.

During the Crusades, and in the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, warring nations frequently attempted to come to some agreement about the humane treatment of the wounded. But it was not until 1742 that a really comprehensive treaty was drawn up between Great Britain and her adversary, France. Many of the provisions of this document are in advance of the accepted humanitarian practice of the present day, and the results were seen in the Battle of Dettingen the following year, when the combatants treated the wounded of both sides with compassion.

Thus gradually developed the humanitarian spirit that was in the next century to inspire the work of Florence Nightingale

and Henri Dunant, founder of the Red Cross.

THE FIRST IMPORTANT TREATY, 1742

*"A Treaty and Agreement
for the Sick, Wounded and
Prisoners of War of the
Auxiliary Troops of his
Most Christian Majesty,
and for those of the Allies."*

HOW THE NAME OF FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE



BALACLAVA HOSPITAL—"There is not the least attention paid to decency and cleanliness, and . . . the men die without the least effort to save them," from one of W. H. Russell's despatches, describing conditions in the Crimea.

IN the year 1854 Great Britain and France declared war on Russia, and British troops landed west of Sebastopol. Although military operations were successful, sensational despatches from *The Times* correspondent revealed to the people at home that medical arrangements for the sick and wounded were practically non-

existent. As a result of these revelations, Florence Nightingale, with thirty-eight nurses, volunteered to sail from England for the fever-ridden hospitals of Scutari. They found the wounded crowded into rat-infested wards. Noisome sewers were beneath the floor. There was no ventilation. Men lay on pallets soaked in

"I am a kind of general dealer in socks, shirts, tables and forms, wooden spoons, tin baths, knives and forks, cabbages and carrots, operating tables, towels and soap, small-tooth combs, precipitate for destroying lice, scissors, bed-pans and stump pillows."

(From a letter to the Secretary of War from Florence Nightingale, January 4th, 1855.)

"It is with feelings of surprise and anger that the public will learn that no sufficient preparations have been made for the care of the wounded. Not only are there not sufficient surgeons . . . not only are there no dressers and nurses . . . there is not even linen to make bandages for the wounded."

(From a despatch from W. H. Russell to *The Times*, October 12th, 1854.)

BECAME FAMOUS IN BRITISH HISTORY



FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE

Was born on May 12, 1820.

*She was the pioneer
of modern nursing
and her ideas have influenced
and improved the administration
of hospitals
all over the world.*

*She was a Justice of St. John.
Jean Henri Duman,
the founder of the Red Cross,
acknowledged that her example
was his inspiration.*

She died in 1910

*"I have had a larger responsibility of
human lives than ever man or woman
had before. And I attribute my success
to this: I never gave or took an excuse
..."—FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE.*

blood. Many had cholera. There were few knives and forks. Men tore their food in their hands, and the seriously injured were left to starve. In February, 1855, 42 per cent. of the patients died. With the energy and precision of a born administrative genius, Florence Nightingale reorganised the hospitals, introduced hygienic reforms, skilled nursing and even dietetic kitchens. After six months, the death-rate

was reduced from 42 per cent. to 22 per thousand. From Florence Nightingale's exertions, from her scathing letters and memoranda to friends at home, and from her subsequent work, came a complete reorganisation of army medical services, the institution of nursing as an honourable profession—and last but not least—the inspiration that led to the foundation of the first Red Cross Societies.

FLORENCE NIGHTINGALE
at work in the hospital wards.



SCUTARI HOSPITAL
after its reorganisation by Florence Nightingale.





"Would it not be possible to establish in every country in Europe Aid Societies, whose aim would be to provide during war, volunteer nurses for the wounded, without distinction of nationality? Societies of this kind, once created, with a permanent existence, would be found all ready at the time of war."

(From
Un Souvenir de Solferino,
by Henri Dunant.)

JEAN Henri Dunant was born at Geneva in 1828, the son of a well-to-do Swiss banker, who devoted a good deal of his time to humanitarian work.

On a torrid day in June, 1859, Henri Dunant happened to be on holiday in the little Italian town of Castiglione. The Battle of Solferino, "the most murderous bloodbath of the century," had just been fought between the armies of Napoleon III of France and Franz Joseph of Austria. Arrangements for the care of the wounded broke down completely, and Dunant saw the pleasant town of Castiglione turned into a shambles of blood and horror.

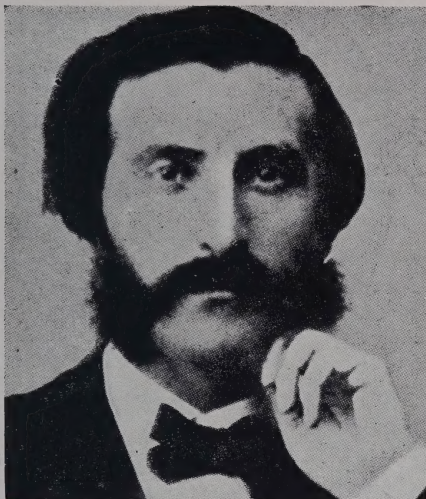
Henri Dunant could never forget the things that he had seen during those June days. He returned home to write a book, "Un Souvenir de Solferino," which forced the whole civilised world to share in his experience. He described the battlefield, where the corpses of men and horses

appeared "as if sown along the roads, in the hollows, the thickets and the fields." He wrote of the road to Castiglione, along which the mules bore their sobbing and groaning burdens. He described the relief measures he hastily organised in the town, where the mutilated men, their wounds black with flies, lay writhing in the sun-baked streets and squares.

But Dunant was not content with memories. He proposed a remedy—National Aid Societies that would in time of war give voluntary service to the sick and wounded.

After several years of tireless propaganda and preparatory work Dunant's dream was at last realised. The Geneva Convention was drafted in 1864 at an International Diplomatic Conference and subsequently ratified by the signatory powers. Its main terms concerned the neutrality of ambulances military hospitals and personnel.

IN THE FORMATION OF THE RED CROSS



GUSTAVE MOYNIER

worked in close association with Henri Dunant. From 1863-1910 he was President of the International Red Cross Committee, which his organising power and hard work had done so much to form.



SIR JOHN FURLEY

was primarily responsible for the foundation in 1870 of the National Society for the Aid of the Sick and Wounded in Time of War, predecessor of the British Red Cross. He later helped found the St. John Ambulance Association.

the protection of houses and individuals sheltering the wounded; the care of the wounded independent of their nationality, and the adoption of an international symbol to distinguish the personnel of Voluntary Aid Societies, their establishments and equipment.

In the midst of all these humane pre-occupations, Henri Dunant quite forgot that he was a banker, and in 1867 his

business failed. As the Red Cross gained world-wide fame, Dunant disappeared into obscurity. He was discovered twenty years later, living on three francs a day in a hospital at Heiden. The Empress of Russia gave him a pension for life. He was awarded half of the first Nobel Peace Prize. But the old gentleman cared for neither fame nor riches. He continued to live in his small room until he died in 1910.



The Swiss Flag, a white cross on a red ground, was reversed as a compliment to Switzerland and to Henri Dunant.

The white eight-pointed cross was the emblem worn by the Knights of St. John when they formed themselves into a religious order in the 12th century. It is still the emblem of the modern Order of St. John and of the St. John Ambulance Brigade and is worn by all their personnel.



THE FRANCO-PRUSSIAN WAR OF 1870



THE SIEGE OF PARIS—Wounded from the ramparts are brought into the city via the Seine.

IN 1870 Sir John Furley helped to found the National Aid Society, predecessor of the British Red Cross.

Active work began the day the new society was created, for war had broken out between France and Germany. Within three weeks the National Aid Society had forty surgeons on the battlefields. At home everything had to be improvised. In the vaults of St. Martin's, in the work-house and churchyard, society ladies worked beside shopgirls and clerks, sorting and packing bandages, medical goods and comforts for the wounded.

Meanwhile, in France, the British surgeons had joined forces with a group of Americans to form an Anglo-American Ambulance. They arrived at Sedan on the eve of the German break-through. The surgeons worked in the thick of the battle. They operated by the flickering light of candles, ducking from time to time to escape bullets that whistled through the windows. After Sedan, the Ambulance arrived at Metz, where 17,000 wounded

men thronged the hospitals and famine raged in the town.

Later, several of these intrepid doctors accompanied a defeated French army into internment in Switzerland and did much work to alleviate the terrible sufferings of the ragged, starving and fever-ridden soldiers.

The National Aid Society finally decided to divide £40,000 equally between the belligerents. Sir John Furley presented one cheque to the King of Prussia, who remarked huffily, "You are certainly very impartial, indeed!" Another emissary, preceded by a trumpeter bearing a white flag on a sword, made his way into besieged Paris to present the other half of the British donation.

This was one of the last acts of the National Aid Society during the war. The record was a fine one. More than £220,000 was spent and 200 surgeons and agents employed overseas. For a new organisation, the Society had performed miracles.

THE WAR IN SOUTH AFRICA, 1899-1902

SHORTLY before the outbreak of the South African War a Central Red Cross Committee was formed, with official recognition by the War Office. Thus, one more of Henri Dunant's dreams was realised—the Voluntary Aid Society and the War Department worked together.

The rôle of the Red Cross now began to change. The pioneering days, when surgeons improvised operating theatres on the battlefield, were over. The work of the Central Committee from now on was to supplement the work of the Army Medical Department.

Perhaps the most valuable contribution made by the Central Committee was the provision of two hospital trains and a hospital ship. One train, the *Princess Christian*, saved thousands of lives, and had the honour of being the first train into Ladysmith when the siege was lifted.

The second train was brilliantly "commandeered" by Sir John Furley and Dr. Stewart (later Sir Edward Stewart) at an East London railway station. They ordered it to be immediately painted white, and when the train was required for its normal civilian business Dr. Stewart said tersely, "You can have it if you like, but I warn you it is all wet with white paint." Later, this train did magnificent work for the wounded in South Africa.

The Red Cross Hospital ship *The*



Red Cross ambulances at the battle of Magersfontein.

Princess of Wales, brought safely home 728 wounded men, and so well was she equipped that only one man died of all those treated on board.

The remaining work of the Red Cross in this war was mostly concerned with the helping of hospitals and the maintenance of a steady flow of medical supplies and comforts for the wounded. Although the supply of a warm blanket to a wounded man may seem a trivial matter, it may well save that man's life, and it is certain that innumerable lives were saved through the tireless work of the Red Cross, and of their energetic commissioner, Sir John Furley

The Red Cross hospital train leaves Ladysmith with a cargo of wounded.



WORLD WAR I — FLASHBACKS OF THE JOINT

IN 1905 it had been decided to establish one comprehensive Red Cross organisation for the whole Empire, and so the British Red Cross Society came into being, absorbing the original National Aid Society. When war broke out in 1914 a "Joint War Committee" of the British Red Cross Society and the Order of St. John of Jerusalem was immediately formed to meet the new call for service. The task and achievements of the Joint Committee were so immense and varied that it is only possible here to give some "news-flashes" from the far-flung battle-fronts of the first world war.

* * *

1914: Two London V.A.D. units cross Channel and start rest station at Boulogne. By end of war they have fed 373,000 men, dressed 16,000 wounds. . . . At home, Red Cross runs over 1,400 auxiliary hospitals staffed by V.A.D.s. . . . King George Hospital, equipped by Red Cross, treats 71,002 patients. . . . Red Cross gives 500-bed Netley Hospital to War Office. . . . Plans laid for foundation of Star and Garter Home, Richmond, for totally disabled men. . . . In France



King George V talking to a soldier wounded during the great allied offensive of 1918.



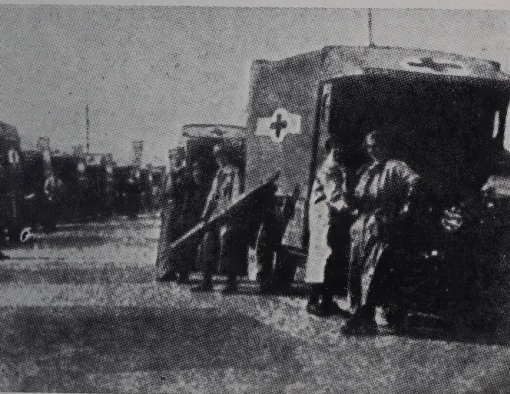
"The Heroines of Pervyse"—two brave women who maintained a concealed dressing station for more than three years

WAR COMMITTEE AT HOME AND ABROAD



A "T" flag run up at Southend to warn V.A. Detachments that a hospital ship is due in.

army still using horse-drawn ambulances. . . . 1915: Red Cross sends out 780 motor-ambulances. . . . After battle of Ypres, ambulance trains roll into Boulogne hourly. . . . Red Cross Stores Department pours supplies of clothes, bedding, pyjamas, blankets into base hospitals. . . . Boulogne Red Cross ambulance convoy carries 1,823,458 wounded men during war. . . . Red Cross hospital trains carry and treat 500,000 patients. . . . St. John Ambulance Brigade maintains famous base hospital at Etaples. 1916: V.A.D. women drivers take over first ambulance convoy. . . . In Italy Red Cross ambulance drivers called "the cats," travel by night in mountains close to enemy lines: one ambulance crosses ravine on two planks. . . . In Mesopotamia Red Cross organises river transport; river launches increase from 33 in 1916 to 84 in 1918. Red Cross cares for over 200,000 men at Malta. . . . Red Cross looks after 174,000 British prisoners of war. . . . Sends $2\frac{1}{2}$ million food parcels. . . . And all of this represents but a small part of the first world war activities of the Red Cross and St. John.



A Red Cross ambulance convoy in France, run entirely by women.



The St. John hospital at Etaples. It was heavily bombed by the Germans in 1918.

IN PEACE TIME, AT PROCESSIONS
FOOTBALL MATCHES, DERBY DAYS
BOAT RACES...WHEREVER THERE
ARE CROWDS...THE TRAINED
PERSONNEL OF THE ST. JOHN
AMBULANCE BRIGADE ARE
ALWAYS ON THE SPOT TO
RENDER FIRST AID

TRAINING AND SERVING IN YEARS OF PEACE



St. John Ambulance Brigade men help a "crowd casualty."



The Red Cross trains girls in home nursing and babycraft.

THE crowd sways forward—a great, cheering crowd of the years between the two world wars; it is waiting for the Coronation procession, it is waiting for the Arsenal team, it is waiting to see a wedding, a film star, a political demonstration, a Lord Mayor's Show. It is the sort of hot, happy crowd in which people always faint. And there are always voluntary St. John workers ready to give expert first-aid to these casualties of peace-time pleasure.

At the Red Cross Clinic for the treatment of rheumatism attendances rise from 37,000 in 1931 to over 154,000 in 1939. In each peace-time year the ambulances of the St. John Ambulance Brigade cover over 45,000 miles. 3,000 donors are ready, night or day, to give their blood to the Red Cross Blood Transfusion Service. Casualties of Britain's busy roads are treated by men and women of the Red Cross and St. John Ambulance Brigade at over 1,000 roadside first-aid huts. At the

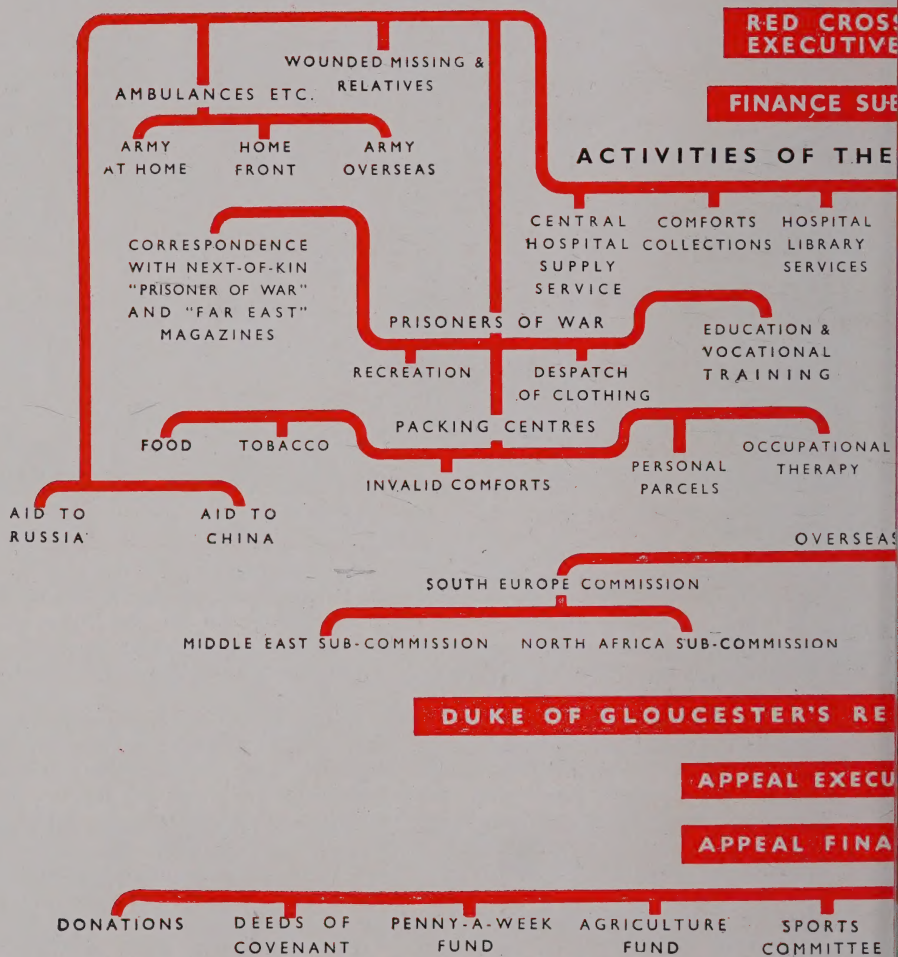
Red Cross Star and Garter Home, disabled servicemen of the first world war sit out on the sunny terraces and watch London at play on the silvery Thames.

In 1923 the St. John Ambulance Association awards 30,000 certificates in first aid and home nursing. In 1937 the figure is 48,000; in 1939, 286,000. The Red Cross Society shows a similar steady increase in the number of people who voluntarily prepare themselves to serve their country in peace and to be ready for the emergency of war.

The crowds who stand in Whitehall in the last days of August 1939 are quiet and sombre. The years of peace are over. No one knows what tribulations lie ahead. But a great organisation of voluntary aid is ready to relieve the sufferings of war, as it has helped with the problems of peace. The Red Cross and St. John open a new chapter in their long history.

WHAT THE WAR ORGANISATION OF THE RED

RED CROSS & ST. JOHN



During the war, the British Red Cross Society and Order of St. John conduct their work as a joint body, whose activities are controlled by a council of members of each organisation and conducted by an executive committee under the chairmanship of Sir Philip Chetwode. The Function of the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John is to furnish aid to the sick and wounded by supplementing the work of the

NOTE : Where the words "Red Cross" are used in the following pages they ref

CROSS AND ST. JOHN IS DOING TO-DAY

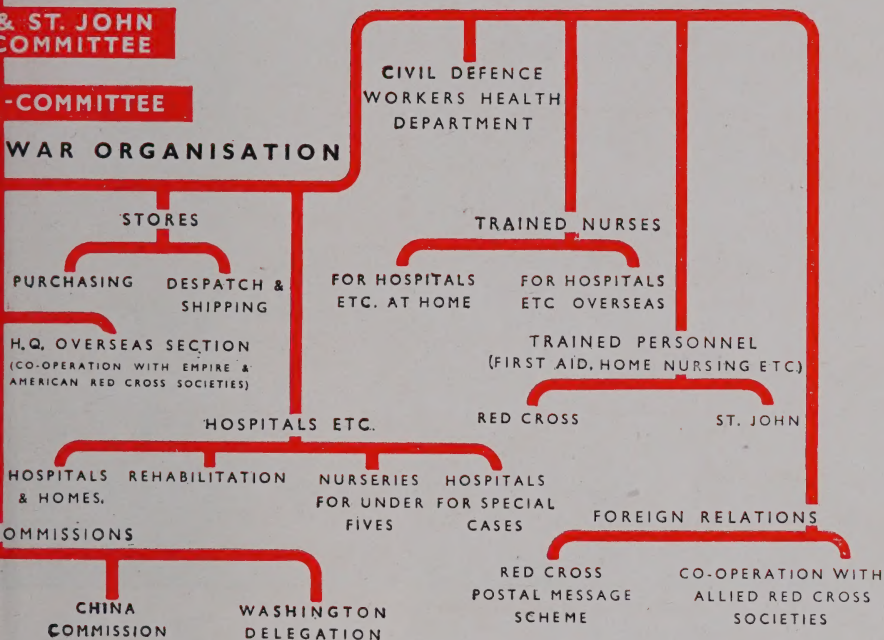


WAR ORGANISATION

**& ST. JOHN
COMMITTEE**

-COMMITTEE

WAR ORGANISATION



CROSS & ST. JOHN FUND

VE COMMITTEE

CE COMMITTEE

**MRS. CHURCHILL'S
D TO RUSSIA FUND**

**RED CROSS
SALES**

**GIFTS IN KIND
(HOME & OVERSEAS)**

**FLAG DAYS AND
OTHER COLLECTIONS**

medical services of the fighting forces; to all prisoners of war by the provision of food and other supplies; to civilians needing relief as a result of enemy action.

The above table shows something of the range and complexity of the humanitarian work undertaken by the War Organisation under conditions of total war; an account of these activities will be found in the pages that follow.

HOW SCIENCE AND HUMANITY RESTOR



"... in the midst of a confusion without parallel, inexpressible grief and suffering." (Henri Dunant on the battle of Solferino, 1859.)

MEN have in every age shown some degree of compassion for the wounded, but humanity has seldom in the past kept its appointment with a sufficient sense of urgency. When Jean Henri Dunant wrote "Un Souvenir de Solferino" it was usual for the wounded to lie in agony on the battlefield all night long. When help came at last it was often too late.

To-day, humanity and science have joined forces. Speed is the keynote of the modern technique of care for the wounded. And this principle has been applied with such great success that a man going into action to-day knows that, should he be wounded, he has an almost 100 per cent. chance of making a recovery.

Wherever our men fight overseas, air power revolutionises the care of the

wounded. Casualties can be flown back to base at a speed of some 300 miles an hour, and blood plasma has been flown to the wounded at the rate of 2,000 bottles in one day for a single unit. Sometimes complete "surgical teams" can be dropped by parachute on to the battlefield, thus bringing the services of a base hospital right into the front line, and reducing to nil the "time lag" which still largely determines the injured man's chances of recovery.

Major-General A. M. Cowell, Director of Medical Services in North Africa, has thus summed up developments in the care of the wounded. "In the last war," he said, "I was a field medical officer at the second battle of Arras. Of the 1,300 wounded coming in, 113 died. But for the same number of casualties in Tunisia, only one or two died. When all the statistics

THIS WAR'S WOUNDED TO LIFE



A R.A.M.C. stretcher party on the battlefield.

are known, the world will stand amazed at the miracle of medical and surgical healing that has taken place in North Africa. . . . Death-rates at base hospitals are fantastically low. One hospital had five deaths among 1,500 severely wounded men. There have been no cases of tetanus, little of gas gangrene and almost none of typhoid. Typhus is non-existent, and sepsis is under control with sulfa drugs."

Provision for the wounded on a scale as vast and complex as total war itself is no longer the responsibility of voluntary societies. It is the direct responsibility of the Government, discharged through the medical services of the armed forces. Thousands of men and women in the R.A.M.C. and service hospitals, however, owe their initial training either to the Red Cross or the St. John Ambulance Brigade and the War Organisation itself gives supplementary care and extra comforts to the wounded man at every stage of his progress from the battlefield to the convalescent home.



Skilled stretcher bearers and modern ambulances bring speedy relief to the wounded.



Seriously wounded men are flown back to base hospitals.

THE RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN



During the Crimean War the French carried wounded on the backs of mules.

BARON Larrey, Napoleon's resourceful surgeon, introduced "flying ambulances" for the wounded, equipped with removable litters, surgical instruments and even refreshments. The world was slow to learn this humane lesson, and in the Crimean War the British wounded had to rely mainly on the French to take them from the battlefield, either in jolting seats or litters slung from mules. When at last British ambulances arrived, they gave the wounded men a little more ease, for they could accommodate both seriously and slightly injured cases.

At the beginning of the 1914-18 war, horsedrawn ambulances were still in use

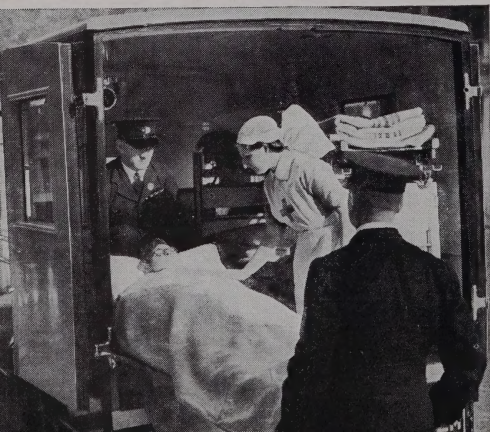


A type of British ambulance used in the Crimea.

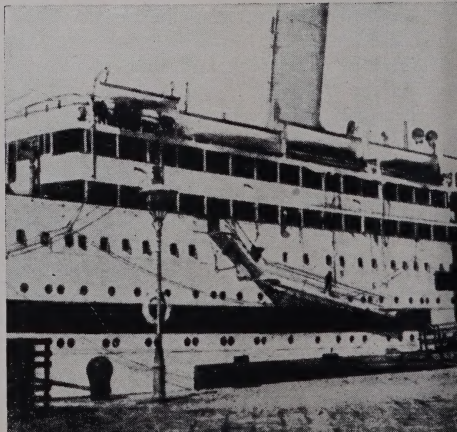
but the motor-ambulances sent out by the Red Cross were rapidly adopted and gradually incorporated into the Army Medical Service.

To-day, transport for the wounded has become a science. As a supplementary service to the work of the authorities, a fleet of over 1,100 vehicles is maintained by the War Organisation. This fleet consists of 4-stretcher and 2-stretcher ambulances, stores vans, "utilicons" which can be used as ambulances or for sitting cases, X-ray units, physio-therapy units, first-aid units, canteens, field kitchens, breakdown wagons, field workshops, motor-cars and motor-cycles. A

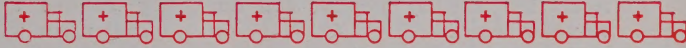
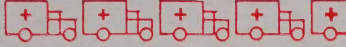
A Red Cross ambulance equipped for four stretcher cases, three sitting cases and a nurse.



Modern hospital ships give the wounded the comfort and amenities of a hospital ashore.



HELPS WITH TRANSPORT FOR THE WOUNDED

AT HOME	 = 500,000 MILES
MILEAGE OF AMBULANCES WITH ARMY COMMANDS	 
MILEAGE OF AMBULANCES SERVING WITH JOINT COUNTY COMMITTEES	
AT HOME	 = 50,000 PATIENTS
NUMBER OF SERVICE PATIENTS CARRIED	
NUMBER OF CIVILIAN PATIENTS CARRIED	

medical stores and field dressing station is also provided. Nearly 400 of these vehicles are attached to the army in the various commands, and more than 500 are now used by the Joint County Committees, and by convalescent homes and hospitals. Nearly 50 War Organisation ambulances, canteens, stores vans, etc., are in service in North Africa and the Middle East.

There is a "flying column" stationed in London, and others under the control of Joint County Committees, available for special work in areas which have suffered in heavy bombing.

The flying column based on London is typical, and consists of two ambulances, first-aid unit, mobile canteen, stores van, staff car and a motor-cycle for a despatch rider. The mobile canteen is stocked with invalid meals all ready to be served, whilst the stores van is equipped to contain more than 6,000 meals packed in cases, and reserve stock of bandages, drugs, etc.



THE RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN ORGANISES

AT the direct request of the Government the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John maintains nearly 250 auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes.

The running of these homes gives an excellent example of the close co-operation (dreamed of by Henri Dunant) between the authorities and the voluntary societies, for the Government makes a grant towards upkeep, while the Red Cross and St. John does the rest.

Nearly every department of the War Organisation contributes something to these homes. Almost all the staff, from matrons to kitchen hands, are members of the British Red Cross Society or the St. John Ambulance Brigade. The Joint County Committees find the houses, engage the personnel and are responsible for maintenance. War Organisation ambulances carry the wounded to and from the homes; the Stores Department supplies all equipment, from beds and cookers to games, sports gear, and safety pins, as well as handicrafts and materials for occupational therapy. The Red Cross and St. John Hospital Library sends many thousands of books. The Central

Hospital Supply Service provides all sorts of "hospital soft goods."

These hospitals and homes have gradually adapted themselves to meet the special needs of the present war. For example, there are hospitals which specialise in convalescent eye and head cases and in skin complaints, while many of them give the latest treatment for orthopaedic cases.

Men serving in the allied forces are received in the convalescent homes and four houses have been especially set aside to accommodate patients from the Fighting French, Czech, Norwegian and Dutch forces. Thirteen homes are allotted to the women's services, and special accommodation is provided for air raid victims.

The War Organisation's Civil Defence Workers' Health Department provides for Civil Defence workers incapacitated by their duties recuperative rest and convalescent treatment in the established Red Cross convalescent homes and auxiliary hospitals and in a chain of special "rest houses."

Over 30,000 men and women of Civil Defence have been restored to full health and efficiency in this way.

A hospital ward in the time of the Crimean war.



HOSPITALS AND CONVALESCENT HOMES



Handiwork gives an interest to convalescence.



The Queen visits patients at a Red Cross convalescent home

POST BAG

The matrons of Red Cross and St. John convalescent homes and auxiliary hospitals have heavy postbags. Most of their ex-patients write to them and many ask if they can come again — as guests.

"During my last interview with you, you were pleasingly proud of the fact that you could point me out and say with truth, 'We cured that man.' More true, indeed, than I can say, though I am less concerned with bodily recovery than with the return of mental stability."

From a letter from a man wounded at Dunkirk and completely restored to health at a Red Cross and St. John home.

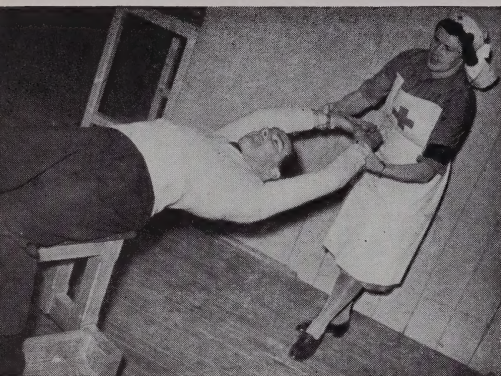
"I start my leave on Friday. I hope I'm not putting you to any trouble in any way, but I haven't anywhere to go and I'd love to stay at . . . for a few days. I expect to be back at sea at Christmas, so I would like to see you all before I go."

From a merchant seaman lately a patient. (Accommodation was found for his leave in a village near the convalescent home.)



A bright, airy ward in a Red Cross auxiliary hospital.

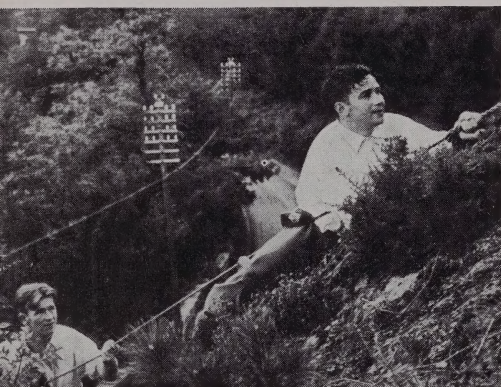
THE RECONSTRUCTION OF MEN



Exercises to strengthen the back muscles.



Dancing is more than a pleasant recreation. It strengthens injured limbs and restores confidence.



Hill climbing helps wounded men to recover complete physical fitness



Twenty years ago such men might have become permanent cripples. To-day they are "reconstructed" to do jobs calling for an A1 physique.

REHABILITATION" is the official term for the reconstruction, not of towns, but of men. When a man is seriously wounded he is no longer regarded as a potential cripple. Plans are immediately made to rebuild his damaged organism and to restore him to complete mental and physical health.

At the request of the medical authorities the War Organisation has already converted six of its convalescent homes for this new type of treatment. The selected homes have the services of a P.T. instructor provided by the army authorities, a resident masseur, and an occupational therapist.

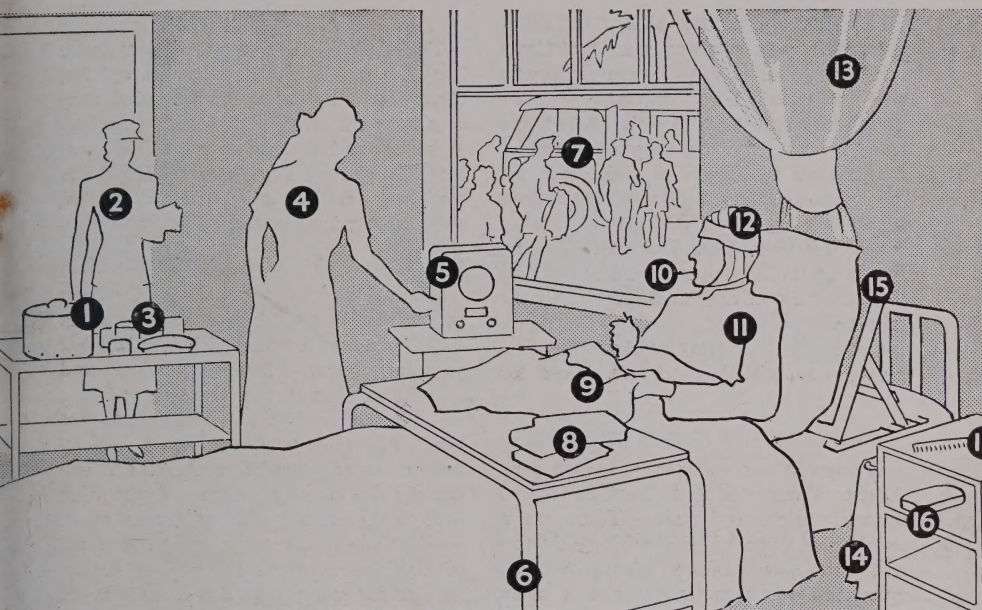
Rehabilitation at these homes is a many-sided process. Electrical and other types of apparatus are used to get damaged limbs

working again. Skilled massage and carefully graduated exercises are given. The occupational therapist prescribes and teaches special crafts, designed to interest the patient and to exercise specific sets of muscles.

"Diversional" (as distinct from "occupational") therapy is also widely practised in the rehabilitation centres, and in many other Red Cross and St. John homes. Here the main aim is to divert the patient's mind from his injuries and to give him a feeling of achievement.

The Stores Department of the Red Cross and St. John provides enormous quantities of material for a variety of crafts, and many enthusiastic craftsmen and women give their services as voluntary instructors.

HELP FOR THE WOUNDED OVERSEAS



Here is a wounded British soldier in a military hospital "somewhere overseas." Everything that he needs is supplied by the R.A.M.C., while the Red Cross provides all sorts of "extra" comforts. Many "necessities" are also drawn by the Army authorities from Red Cross Stores when a sudden influx of wounded or other emergency causes a temporary shortage of official equipment and stores. This diagram shows some of the services and comforts that the Red Cross can supply to the wounded overseas.

1. STERILIZER. 2. RED CROSS WELFARE WORKER. 3. SURGICAL INSTRUMENTS. 4. V.A.D. TRAINED BY RED CROSS. 5. RADIO. 6. BED TABLE. 7. BUS TO TAKE CONVALESCENT PATIENTS ON SIGHT-SEEING TOUR. 8. BOOKS. 9. CRAFT MATERIALS. 10. CIGARETTES. 11. PYJAMAS. 12. BANDAGES. 13. MOSQUITO NETTING. 14. TOWEL. 15. BACK-REST. 16 and 17. TOILET ARTICLES.

WHEREVER our soldiers fight overseas they have the resources of the War Organisation close at hand, ready to bring comfort to them if they are wounded or ill.

STORES AND THEIR DISTRIBUTION

The War Organisation supplies a vast range of stores to hospitals, convalescent homes, casualty clearing stations, hospital trains and ships and forward medical units.

The variety and size of these stores is amazing. They include bedjackets, dressing gowns and other hospital garments; bandages and dressings, pneumonia jackets, surgical instruments, splints, air beds and hot water bottles; books, indoor and outdoor games, radios, gramophones, gardening tools and seeds; toilet articles, fly swatters, mosquito netting, armchairs and linoleum.

Often the organisation and distribution of stores is a difficult and dangerous business, yet Red Cross lorries, personnel and crates packed with medical and surgical supplies are always close on the heels of our armies.

Here is a letter from the matron of a general hospital overseas which gives some idea of the pleasure that Red Cross stores give to our wounded:

"I feel I must write and thank you for the inestimable help we have received from the Red Cross. The last consignment of goods we received we unpacked, checked and distributed within four hours and they made all the difference in the world to the patients' comfort; if the people at home could only realise with what gratitude these gifts are received they would know how very much they are helping the men who are doing such a lot for us."

THE WOUNDED OVERSEAS — AND AT HOME

WELFARE WORKERS AND CANTEENS

In military hospitals overseas Red Cross and St. John hospital welfare workers visit wounded men regularly. They distribute comforts, help with letters home and send progress reports when men are dangerously ill. They also ask men for information about comrades who have been reported missing. All information so collected is sent to the Wounded, Missing and Relatives Department, and helps them in their "detective" work of tracing the missing.

Other Red Cross workers operate canteens to provide food and drinks for travelling wounded.

CONVALESCENT HOMES OVERSEAS

Whenever our men move into a new theatre of war, the Red Cross hastens to open convalescent homes. There are a number of these homes in North Africa, and in the new war areas. A typical home opened in Southern Italy stands in lovely country high above sea-level and looks after officers of the Army, Navy and Air Force, and sisters of the Nursing Services.

Another Red Cross convalescent home is in Tripolitania. This is how it is described by a member of the War Organisation's Middle East Commission.

"Between the Home and the sea, a host of small tents houses the officers, with two to each tent. The beds are large and comfortable and the mattresses the best Egypt can provide. After months of desert campaigning the linen sheet: and the rugs on the floor are obviously an enormous joy to all the patients. Each man has a chair, a table, coat hangers, a towel rail and a lamp in his tent, and down on the beach a tent with back rests and rugs and a bathing raft provide a real Mediterranean seaside life."

OCCUPATIONAL THERAPY

In hospitals and convalescent homes overseas, as well as at home, the Red Cross has made itself responsible for the teaching of a number of crafts (such as basket-making, rug-making and weaving) that help to exercise specific sets of muscles and also to relieve the tedium of convalescence.

BATTLE AND SHIPWRECK BAGS

The Red Cross also provides "Battle Bags" containing essential toilet articles, cigarettes and sweets, for wounded men who have lost all their personal belongings in battle, and for the shipwrecked there are "Shipwreck Bags" containing outer clothing, underwear, toilet articles, stationery and cigarettes.

A LETTER FROM A WOUNDED SOLDIER

How does the Red Cross Overseas appear to a wounded soldier? Here is a letter from a man wounded in Tunisia that describes many of the personal and friendly services of the Red Cross:

"My own personal experience of the Red Cross may interest you. Within half an hour of being wounded at Mareth I was smoking Red Cross cigarettes. I was taken back to the casualty clearing station, where my battledress had to be cut off and my personal belongings in the various pockets were all put into a small Red Cross bag. A few hours later I was in a pair of Red Cross pyjamas, still smoking their cigarettes. At Tripoli I had my first shave for 10 days with a razor and blade, shaving brush, soap and mirror, also toothpaste and toothbrush, all supplied by the Red Cross. . . ."

"I was taken to the cinema in a Red Cross wheel chair—sometimes to a show arranged by the Red Cross."

"On the ship coming home the Red Cross was there again. It seems that the capacity of the Red Cross for doing good work is unlimited."

THE "GUIDE" SCHEME

This letter brings us from the war fronts overseas to home, so perhaps we can mention here just one more Red Cross service. This is the "Guide" scheme for the benefit of sick and wounded servicemen and repatriated prisoners of war when travelling in this country. Special guides are provided to help wounded men who are travelling across big towns or from one town to another. The guides secure seats in trains, provide books and magazines, carry, if necessary, refreshments for the journey, and in general do everything possible to make travelling carefree for the patient.

THE STORY OF A WOUNDED MAN

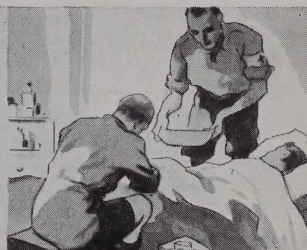
Men are sometimes rushed to base hospitals by air for major operations or sometimes the operation is "brought to the man," as in the story below, which is based on the actual experience of a private in the Tunis campaign.



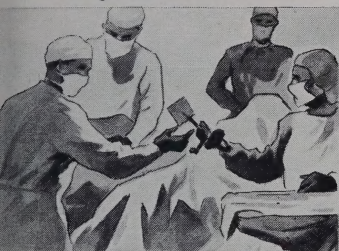
1. Private D is wounded. A comrade gives him an emergency dressing.



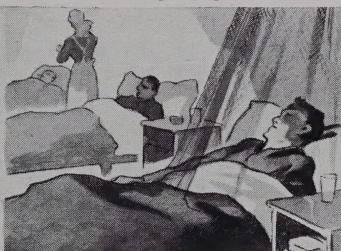
2. One of the R.A.M.C. stretcher bearers was trained by St. John Ambulance Brigade in peacetime.



3. From the advanced dressing station he is sent to the advanced surgical centre.



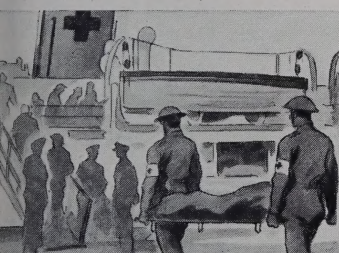
4. Two hours after receiving his wound he is on the operating table.



5. The operation is over. Pyjamas, toilet things and mosquito netting come from Red Cross stores.



6. In a base hospital, a Red Cross welfare worker writes letters for him.



7. Private D sails for home. He reads books supplied by the Red Cross Hospital Library Service.



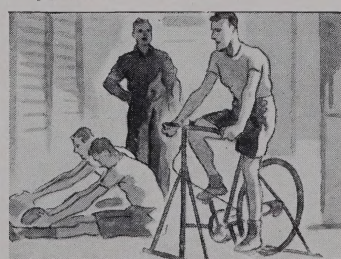
8. A Red Cross liaison officer finds accommodation near the hospital for Private D's mother.



9. One of Private D's nurses is a V.A.D., trained by the Red Cross.



10. Private D is now in a Red Cross home. He makes baskets from materials supplied by the Stores Department.



11. At a Red Cross "rehabilitation" home, Army P.T. experts are making Private D fighting fit.



12. Thanks to the R.A.M.C. and the supplementary care of the Red Cross, Private D is restored to health.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN ENEMY HANDS

THERE are about 170,000 British and Dominion prisoners of war and civilian internees in Europe. It is estimated that prisoners in Japanese hands number about 200,000. This figure includes some 50,000 British service prisoners, many Dominion and Indian troops, and civilians and soldiers of allied nations.

General responsibility for looking after the interests and rights of British prisoners of war is assumed by the War Office, while the Prisoners of War Department of the Red Cross and St. John, at the request of the Government, gives to our men in Europe all kinds of supplementary services designed

to keep them in good health, to defeat the boredom of prison life, to prepare them for freedom and, above all, to give them "a little bit of home."

The constant aim of the War Organisation is to extend a service similar to that operating in Europe to our prisoners in the Far East. The pages that follow, of necessity devoted mainly to Europe, will serve a double purpose if they give to relatives and friends of men in Japanese hands some idea of the service that can rapidly be built up for the Far East, once the co-operation of the Japanese Government is secured.

A religious service for Prisoners of War in the Far East (Keijo Camp).



FOOD TO SUPPLEMENT MEAGRE RATIONS

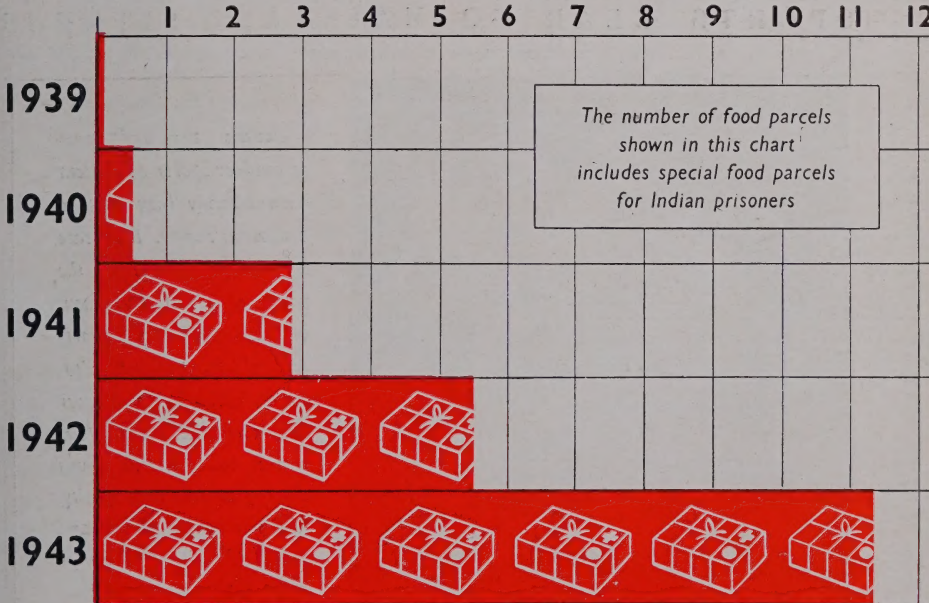


FOOD PARCELS

Since the beginning of the war the Red Cross and St. John has sent over twenty million food parcels to British and Dominion prisoners of war. The contents of the parcels are carefully chosen to give the best dietetic value and to supply elements that may be lacking from prison camp fare. Indian prisoners receive parcels of specially selected foods. About 885,000,000 cigarettes and 104 tons of tobacco have also been sent.

NUMBER OF FOOD PARCELS DESPATCHED

MILLIONS



(Note—The information on pages 26 to 34 applies to prisoners of war in Europe only.)

RECREATION TO DEFEAT BOREDOM



The Indoor Recreations Section of the Prisoners of War Department sends books to camp libraries at the rate of nearly 1,000 volumes a week. Acting editions of plays are sent to dramatic societies, and musical instruments for twenty-two complete orchestras have been despatched. Thousands of packs of playing cards and sets of dominoes, draughts, chess, halma and other indoor games have also been distributed to the camps.

SPORTS GEAR TO MAINTAIN FITNESS



Several thousand boxes of outdoor sports equipment have already been sent to the prison camps. Each case contains equipment for the needs of about 100 men, and includes jerseys, shorts and shirts, bathing slippers, four footballs, a rugby ball, two cricket bats, four cricket balls, twelve tennis balls, five sets rope quoits, four sets boxing gloves, and many other items of equipment, replacements and material for repairs.

BOOKS TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE CAREERS



Over 190,000 educational books and 8,000 study courses have been sent to the camps by the Educational Books Section of the Prisoners of War Department. Nearly 90 societies and institutions are holding examinations for prisoners of war, ranging from surveying to chiropody, from accountancy to spectacle-making. Over six thousand men have applied for examinations and over one thousand five hundred have already passed in all papers.

IN July, 1942, a packet bearing a German postmark arrived at the New Bodleian in Oxford. It was an exciting event for the staff of the Educational Books Section of the Red Cross and St. John for this envelope contained the first set of completed examination papers from British prisoners of war in Germany. A few weeks later the Chartered Institute of Shipbrokers published its examination results and among the names of successful candidates was that of a young London rifleman from a prison camp in Poland. He was the first prisoner in this war to sit for and pass an examination.

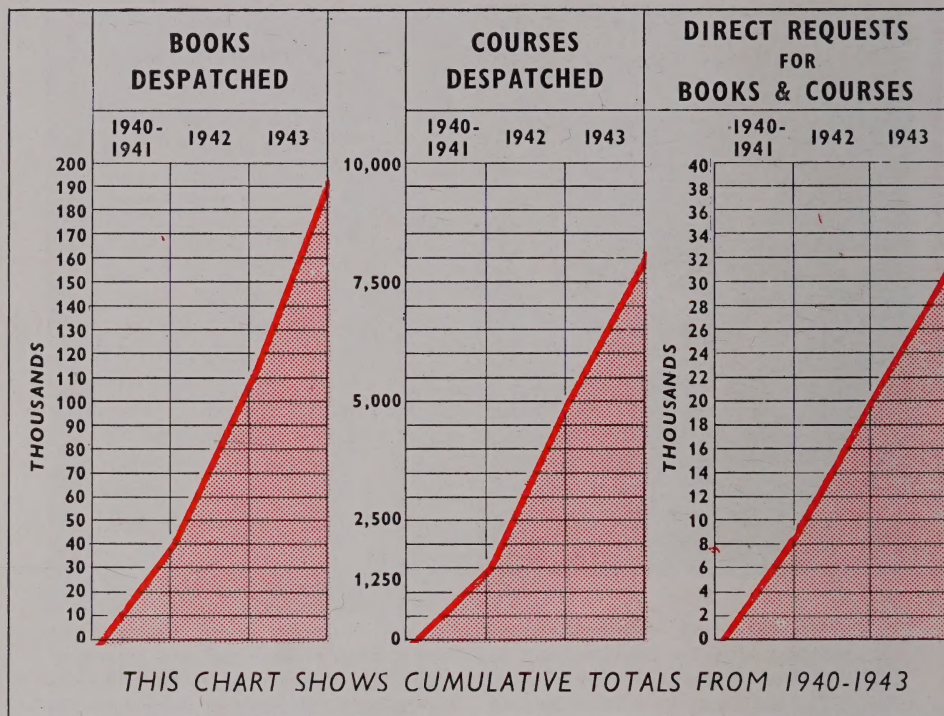
Since early 1940 the work of the department has grown steadily. All sorts of men and women are taking advantage of the scheme by which examinations can be held in prison camps. There is a schoolgirl of fifteen interned in Liebenau who is sitting for matriculation, and an accountant of 49 who wishes to read for Holy Orders. A Sergeant has passed the theory examination of the National Association of Swimming Instructors, and there is a civilian internee in Ilag VIII who has passed School Certificate at the age of forty plus.

The Educational Books Section works with a small trained staff and a panel of over a hundred voluntary workers, including eminent specialists in many branches of human knowledge. All types of students are helped. Young soldiers who wish to resume professional studies in law, accountancy, banking, medicine, engineering: men who wish to plan new post-war careers: others who wish to study abstruse subjects such as oriental philosophy or various unusual languages: just for the joy of using their minds in the dull stagnation of captivity.

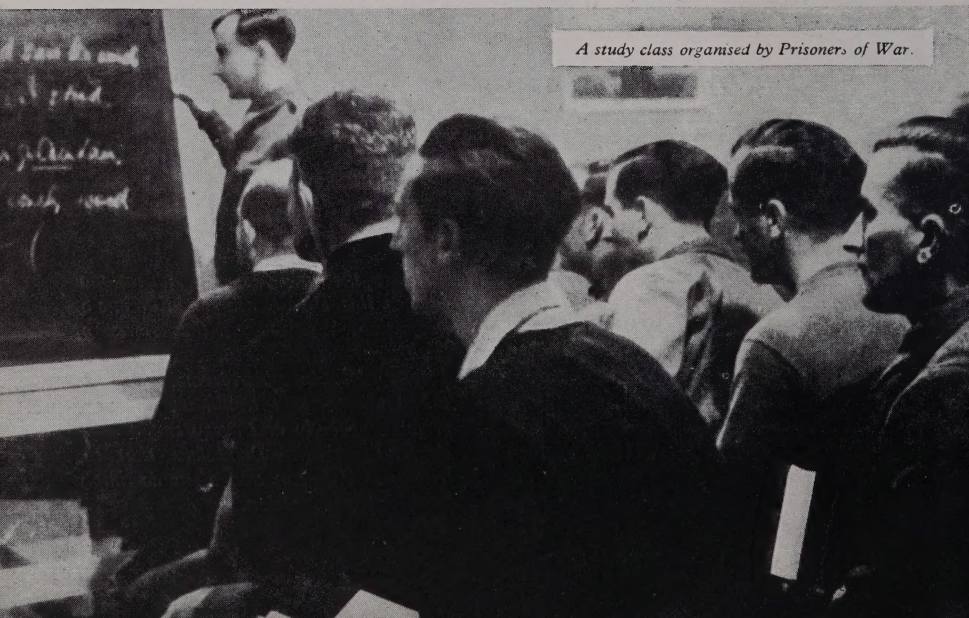
A member of the "Educational Committee" of Stalagluft III summed up the attitude of prisoner-students when he wrote:

"Without the aid of your Educational Service this P.O.W. life would be one of stagnation, but through the efforts of the New Bodleian it is a period of praiseworthy effort in adverse conditions. If I had the power I would inform every professional body and every employer in England and the Dominions that the letters P.O.W. can and often do imply an added qualification."

BOOKS TO PREPARE FOR FUTURE CAREERS



(NOTE: The Educational Books Section of the Red Cross and St. John works in close co-operation with the International Red Cross Committee at Geneva, the International Y.M.C.A., the European Student Relief Fund, the International Bureau of Education and the Commission Œcuménique pour l'Aid Spirituelle aux Prisonniers de Guerre.)



A study class organised by Prisoners of War.

PEOPLE AT HOME ARE KEPT IN TOUCH



"Can I send a telegram to my prisoner of war husband?"

"My prisoner of war son is involved in a lawsuit. What can he do about it?"

"Can I send a parcel to my fiancé or can this only be done by his mother?"

"Can you tell me where Wulfershausen is? My son's camp is there."

These are just a few of the thousands of questions the Prisoners of War Department is asked, either in writing or personally, by kinsfolk and friends of British prisoners of war.

EVERY year the Prisoners of War Department receives more than 300,000 letters from prisoners and from their wives, parents and friends.

Every day many relatives and friends of the men call at St. James's Palace with their problems. And whether they write or call, the department tries to give them friendly and personal assistance, so that barbed-wire and distance may seem less formidable barriers.

Every prisoner of war is registered by the department as soon as his name has been received, and a file is opened for him. Three large rooms at St. James's Palace are completely filled with these files and it is a proud boast of the workers there that they can turn up full details of any prisoner almost quicker than you can say "prisoner of war"!

The department writes at once to the prisoner's "next of kin," and every three months issues coupons and labels so that parcels of clothing and other comforts may be sent to the prisoner. Most of the country branches of the War Organisation have centres where the next of kin are able to buy clothing and other articles for their parcels. Personal help is given in making up these parcels to the best advantage.

Matrimonial difficulties and other legal problems sometimes arise and worried prisoners who write are referred to the Legal Department, which gives them expert advice and help.

The department also publishes monthly magazines, "The Prisoner of War" and "Far East," which are sent free to next of kin, and bring them up-to-date news of camp conditions and activities.

Part of the Prisoners of War filing system at St. James's Palace.



HOW PARCELS ARE CARRIED TO



PRISONERS ACROSS THE BATTLE ZONES



Voluntary workers packing the food parcels. Seventeen centres pack 163,000 parcels a week.



One of the Red Cross ships that carries prisoner of war parcels from Lisbon to Marseilles.

THE Red Cross and St. John War Organisation has eight ships under permanent charter, in addition to other ships on occasional charter, to carry supplies to prisoners of war.

The majority of these ships operate a shuttle service between Lisbon and Marseilles, but some of the bigger ones travel between America and Marseilles direct, with parcels packed in Canada and New Zealand.

Altogether the eight ships can carry

more than one and a quarter million standard eleven-pound Red Cross parcels.

At Marseilles the parcels are transferred to railway vans under the supervision of a representative of the International Red Cross Committee.

In charge first of the French, and then of the Swiss postal authorities, the parcels finally reach Geneva and the International Red Cross Committee arranges for their distribution to prison camps in Germany.

One of the great assembly points for Red Cross parcels at Geneva.



A SERVICE FOR SICK AND WOUNDED



Standard food parcels for invalid prisoners of war are packed at the rate of 10,000 a week, as well as some 2,000 standard parcels of drugs and medicines. Complete dental equipment is sent and also materials and tools for the manufacture of temporary limbs.

THE "standard" parcels sent to prison camps by the Invalid Comforts Section contain such foods as milk, dried eggs, cheese, tinned fruits, chocolate and lemon curd: and a wide range of medical supplies, such as lint, bandages, soap, disinfectants, and vitamin concentrates. Materials for handicrafts (embroidery, rug-making, weaving, painting and many more) are also sent regularly,

so that creative activity can conquer the tedium of convalescence.

All blinded prisoners of war have recently been assembled in one camp. A complete educational programme has been drawn up for them, and they receive ample supplies of Braille material.

Letters from the kinsfolk of blinded men are put into Braille by the Prisoner of War Department.

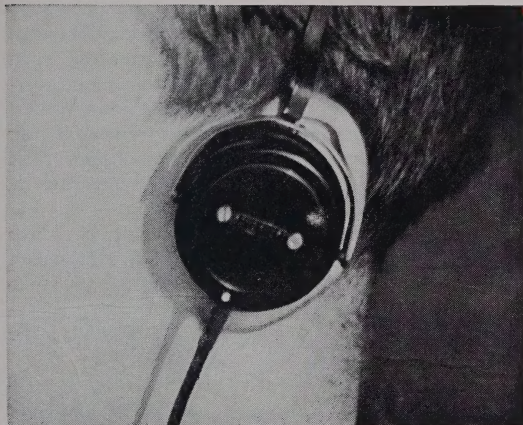
Special foods sent to invalid prisoners of war.



Medical and surgical supplies for invalid prisoners.



PRISONERS—AND FOR BLIND AND DEAF

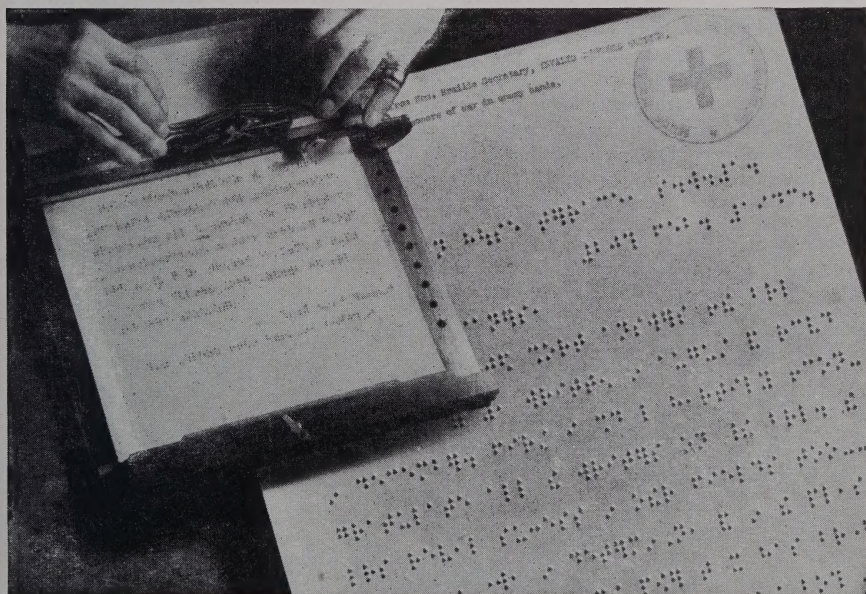


Blind, deaf and limbless prisoners of war are looked after with the utmost sympathy and understanding by special sections of the Prisoners of War Department. For the blind, there is a complete educational programme in co-operation with St. Dunstons : for the deaf, hearing aids and lip-reading instruction with the help of the National Institute for the Deaf : for men who have suffered amputation, artificial limbs are provided.

Special diagnosis forms have been issued for deaf prisoners of war, which, when returned, will enable the Invalid Comforts Section to supply suitable hearing aids. A number of lip-reading manuals have also been provided.

Some time ago, a commission of Swiss

orthopaedic surgeons visited all British prisoners of war who had suffered amputations. They measured them for new limbs which are now being manufactured in Switzerland, as a result of a grant of £11,000 made by the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John.



The Hon. Braille Secretary, Invalid Comfort Section, types a letter in Braille to blinded prisoners of war. Letters to and from prisoners are also transcribed by the Red Cross.

PRISONERS OF WAR IN THE FAR EAST

THE story of the Red Cross service to prisoners of war in the Far East is one of the greatest intricacy and many disappointments.

The aim of the War Organisation is to establish a regular and comprehensive service to our Far Eastern prisoners, but this cannot be done until the co-operation of the Japanese Government is secured.

At present it is possible for International Red Cross delegates to visit camps within the Japanese Empire and also those in the Shanghai and Hongkong areas. But so far the Japanese authorities have refused permission for visits to be paid to the camps in Burma, Siam, Malaya, Singapore, Java, Sumatra and Borneo, where by far the largest proportion of prisoners is located. Official information is therefore available only concerning about 8,000 prisoners.

The food given to Far Eastern prisoners of war is Japanese in character and consists almost exclusively of rice, vegetables and fish. Rations on the whole are insufficient to maintain prisoners in good health over a considerable period of time, and the food is extremely monotonous and lacking in variety. Medicines are also in short supply at the camps.

Generally speaking, the camps in the northern area are clean and adequate washing facilities are provided. Hot baths are available of the Japanese type, accommodating anything up to thirty to fifty

prisoners at a time. In most known camps the buildings are of the plaster and wood type, and there is some evidence of overcrowding.

Other ranks are obliged to work if they are considered fit. The work is heavy, and usually consists of road or rail construction, coal mining, stevedoring, etc.

Sports facilities are available, but there is a general shortage of equipment. Japanese newspapers in English appear to circulate in some camps. Clothing is provided by the Japanese, but supplies are inadequate and of inferior quality.

An important conference recently took place in Washington and, at the invitation of the American Red Cross, delegates of the Canadian Red Cross and of the British War Organisation attended. The object of the conference was to co-ordinate plans for the relief of prisoners in the Far East, and as a result a definite step forward has been made, in the shape of an agreement on the part of the Japanese to allow a monthly despatch of relief supplies of food, medicines and clothing in Soviet ships from the west coast of the United States to the Soviet port of Vladivostok. Representations have been made to the Japanese authorities with regard to the setting up of facilities for the onward transmission of these supplies from Vladivostok to Japan and for their subsequent distribution to the camps.

Prisoners' Roll Call at Argyle Street Camp, Hong Kong.



PRISONER OF WAR CAMPS IN THE FAR EAST

PW PRISONER OF WAR CAMP
 CI CIVILIAN INTERNMENT CAMP
 CA CIVILIAN ASSEMBLY CENTRE



MISSING MEN ARE TRACED



Part of the vast filing system by means of which the International Red Cross helps to find missing men.

THAT thousands of men remain "unaccounted for" after a battle is one of the most baffling problems of modern war. To help the Services and the anxious relatives of the missing men, the Wounded, Missing and Relatives Department of the Red Cross and St. John works in very close contact with the Central Agency for Prisoners of War at Geneva, which is, in effect, the International Red Cross Committee's world-wide detective organisation for missing persons.

In the department's files there is a card for every man reported missing since the beginning of the war.

The first stage in the quest is usually an appeal to Geneva, for the International Red Cross can make direct enquiry to every prison camp in Europe. If this fails, the International Red Cross can arrange for enquiries to be made among the

prisoners themselves. Further enquiries are made by Red Cross "searchers," who talk with the wounded in hospitals at home and overseas.

All information is passed from searchers to the Wounded, Missing and Relatives Department, and is then sent to the War Office. On all the evidence, gathered often from men and places thousands of miles apart, the War Office finally decides what has been the missing man's fate.

Another task of the department is to help relatives who have permission to visit men dangerously ill in this country. Over 1,000 liaison officers help to arrange accommodation, see to the comfort of the visitors and, if necessary, give financial assistance.

The department also, where possible, secures for relatives progress reports on men dangerously ill in hospitals overseas.

BROKEN FAMILY TIES ARE MENDED

THE STORY OF STAVROS



An old Greek couple write to the Greek Red Cross with an enquiry for their missing seaman son Stavros.



The enquiry reaches the Foreign Relations Department in London via Geneva. They find that Stavros has left the ship named on the message.



American, Brazilian and South African Red Cross all join in search, and Stavros is finally contacted in South Africa.

THE Foreign Relations Department of the Red Cross and St. John establishes contact between people in this country and their relatives in enemy or enemy-occupied lands, and it helps them to maintain this contact through the Red Cross Postal Message Scheme.

A network of communications covers enemy and occupied territory with the main junctions at the department's headquarters in London and the International Red Cross at Geneva. In one year the department received 52,646 new enquiries from people of 44 different nationalities and 92 per cent. of the department's enquiries for "lost" relations produced results. The department also works with allied Red Cross Societies in London and runs the Allied Prisoners of War Packing Centre for the despatching of next-of-kin parcels.



3. *The Greek Seamen's Pool reports a ship on which Stavros sailed was sunk but he was rescued.*



5. *Stavros and his parents now regularly exchange Red Cross postal messages.*

WORKING PARTIES ARE ORGANISED



A Red Cross work-party makes 'hospital soft goods' for our wounded fighting men.

IN almost every English village, and in every suburb of every town, women voluntary workers are making comforts, bandages, and many other hospital soft goods for the Services.

The efforts of all those thousands of work-parties, and of individuals who work alone, are co-ordinated by the Central Hospital Supply Service of the Red Cross and St. John.

The Red Cross and St. John provides the work-parties with material, and the eager voluntary workers supply almost everything else themselves — sewing machines, needles and cottons, heat and light in the rooms where they work. They even buy their own materials—about one million yards a year—so that many of the things they make are entirely gifts.

The output of these busy housewives might well make a factory manager envious. Since the beginning of the war they have made 720,418 bandages and 2,724,000 hospital garments, using up 4,454,429 lb. of knitting wool and 735,500 yards o.

material. Every party prides itself on not wasting a scrap of wool or material; remnants make frocks for children, patch-work blankets and "cuddly" toys for the residential nurseries of the Red Cross and St. John.

This enormous and scattered output is gathered together by workers of the Central Hospital Supply Service for redistribution through the Stores Department to hospitals and convalescent homes both here and overseas.

Sometimes an urgent request for some particular article comes to the Central Hospital Supply Service. For example, thousands of surgeons' caps were at one time wanted for use in North Africa. From Land's End to John o' Groats, scissors clipped and needles flashed. Thousands of women who had never even seen one another worked on that order as if they were in one huge war factory. It was completed on time, collected by the Red Cross and St. John and handed over to the R.A.M.C.

A TALE ABOUT TODDLERS



1. In 1941 the Minister of Health asked the Red Cross to convert a number of convalescent homes into residential nurseries for "under-fives."



2. To-day, there are 22 of these nurseries. They are financed by the Ministry of Health but staffed, equipped and administered by the Red Cross.



3. Ronnie and Nigel are at the Brockhampton Residential Nursery. Both were injured in the blitz.



4. Red Cross Nurseries also look after delicate children whose mothers are on war-work.



5. Nearly all the children who come to the nurseries are delicate. Most have had nowhere to play but blitzed streets.



6. At the nurseries the children have regular hours simple lessons and instruction in hygiene.



7. Great attention is paid to diet, with plenty of milk, cheese, salads, and supplementary fruit juices and cod-liver oil.



8. It's nearly bedtime and here are some soft toy made by voluntary women workers for the Red Cross.

HELPING A GREAT ALLY



Russian nurses whose heroic work on the battlefields calls for a steady stream of medical and surgical supplies.

IMMEDIATELY after the German invasion of Russia, the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John rushed an initial £75,000 of medical supplies to our Ally.

Towards the end of 1941 the Red Cross "Aid to Russia" fund was launched under the chairmanship of Mrs. Winston Churchill. This fund is made up of collections from the public plus large contributions from the Red Cross and St. John. The first consignment of goods despatched consisted of 105 separate items, including 53 emergency operating units, 30 blood transfusion sets, 4,480 lb. of chloroform and 1,000,000 tablets of M & B, the miracle drug of modern science.

A comprehensive list of Russia's needs was next drawn up in Moscow. This list asked, among many other things, for more than $\frac{1}{2}$ million blankets, $1\frac{1}{2}$ million pounds in weight of 26 different drugs, $1\frac{1}{2}$ million of 59 different surgical instruments, and half-a-million syringes, which before the war would not have been made in less than

sixteen years. By June, 1943, practically the whole of this huge list had been discharged.

Two more heavy lists of requests have been received. One has already been met. The items needed for the fourth and longest of all are now being assembled.

The women and children of Russia have not been forgotten. The War Organisation and the Women's Voluntary Services between them have sent off over 400,000 garments for the homeless people of towns and villages liberated from the Germans. A further scheme for providing relief on a larger scale has been drawn up in consultation with the Board of Trade. About £3,000,000 worth of clothing is scheduled for despatch, towards which the Red Cross is contributing a considerable sum.

The aim of the "Aid to Russia" Fund can best be summed up in Mrs. Churchill's own words: "The most we can do is the least we can do. Let us heal their wounds and comfort them."

HELP IS SENT TO CHINA TOO



Madame Chiang kai Shek dresses a soldier's wounds.

THE War Organisation has made a grant of about half-a-million pounds to help relieve the sufferings of the Chinese armies and people.

In addition to this, a complete hospital unit has been sent out and is doing valuable work in Changsa.

The unit has had to fight against tremendous odds. The wounded come in desperately ill after gruelling journeys over wild country. There is a shortage of almost all supplies and the hospital has had to organise its own school for the training of Chinese nurses.

A major difficulty has been the supply of cotton-wool, gauze and bandage material. This has been overcome by getting people in the locality to spin the thread on their home spinning-wheels and it is then woven by the patients of a blind institution.

Altogether, the hospital has treated more than 22,000 patients and carried out nearly 500 operations.



A group of Chinese nurses.



Chinese soldiers going into action.

HOW THE MONEY COMES IN



Mr. Churchill gives his contribution to Red Cross and St. John Flag Day.

THE resources of the War Organisation of the Red Cross and St. John are provided through three channels—contributions in money, gifts in kind and the voluntary services of countless willing helpers.

The War Organisation is financed by the Duke of Gloucester's Red Cross and St. John Fund, which embraces many special funds, including those listed below.

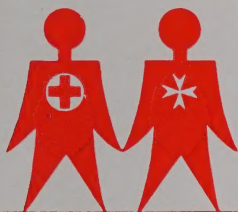
In four years of war, the Red Cross Penny-a-Week Fund has raised £8,711,000, of which £3,500,000 comes from the selfless efforts of a hundred thousand door-to-door collectors. Altogether there are about ten million people regularly contributing their pennies to this Fund. £3,632,836 has come from the Red Cross Agriculture Fund. The Sports Committee has raised £1,216,000 and the Aid to Russia Fund £4,383,000.

Other considerable amounts come from flag days, from the sale of jewellery, gold and valuables given by a generous public and from overseas.

A special tribute must here be paid to the generosity of the Red Cross Societies of the Empire, the United States and South America. Large sums in money, innumerable gifts in kind, food for prisoner of war parcels, medical and surgical supplies, musical instruments, ambulances . . . all have poured in from these good friends overseas to help the War Organisation in its mighty task.

The expenditure of the War Organisation in the first four years of war reached a total of £22,375,000. The claims of the future are likely to be even heavier. The Red Cross must still appeal for even greater efforts on the part of all men and women of goodwill.

— AND HOW IT IS SPENT

**PERSONNEL**

The British Red Cross has 166,490 detachment members, the St. John 170,000; auxiliaries in the Civil Nursing Reserve total 23,938 Red Cross and 10,695 St. John; 6,365 V.A.D.'s in service hospitals are trained by the Red Cross and 838 by St. John; 43,840 St. John members serve in Civil Defence.

**HOSPITALS, CONVALESCENT HOMES AND TRANSPORT**

There are 237 Red Cross and St. John auxiliary hospitals and convalescent homes with accommodation for 13,384 patients. The War Organisation has 1,197 vehicles of all kinds servicing the wounded at home and overseas.

**PRISONERS OF WAR**

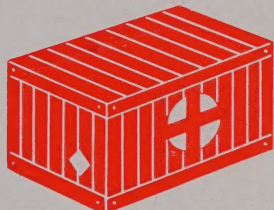
20,441,298 food parcels, 1,649,954 invalid comfort parcels and 771,563 next-of-kin parcels have been sent to prisoner of war camps in Europe. A reserve of 2,000,000 food parcels is held at Geneva.

**CENTRAL HOSPITAL SUPPLY SERVICE**

The voluntary workers of the Central Hospital Supply Service have made 2,724,000 hospital garments and 720,418 bandages and swabs. 7,040,931 garments have been received as gifts from overseas and distributed by this department.

**FOREIGN RELATIONS DEPARTMENT**

1,718,273 Red Cross Personal Messages have been received by this department since August, 1941. The monthly average has risen from 6,000 to nearly 80,000.

**MEDICAL, SURGICAL AND OTHER STORES**

There are nine main Red Cross Stores and 102 subsidiary depots in this country. The total value of stores handled in the first four years of war including gifts from all sources comes to £16,673,657.

**HOSPITAL LIBRARY**

Books, magazines, papers, etc., collected and distributed to hospitals and a variety of other service and civilian establishments reached the grand total of 2,396,480. 31,581 paper-covered books have been bound and 35,711 old books rebound—all by voluntary workers.

**AID TO ALLIES**

Thirty consignments of supplies totalling 9,244 tons have now been sent to Russia at a total cost of £3,799,000. Grants for aid to other allies total £611,000.

**CIVIL DEFENCE WORKERS' HEALTH DEPARTMENT**

This department now has twelve rest-houses with a total of 255 beds, and 542 beds reserved in War Organisation convalescent homes. In the last four months of 1943 3,308 unfit civil defence workers were accommodated.



HUMANITY HAS KEPT ITS APPOINTMENT

A man is restored to health and happiness. The humanitarian spirit that brought into being both state and voluntary care for the wounded has triumphed once more over death and destruction.

ALL PROFITS FROM THE SALE
OF THIS BOOK GO TO THE
DUKE OF GLOUCESTER'S
RED CROSS AND ST. JOHN FUND

